

## LITERARY NOTES.

The indefatigable Miss Yonge has written a new novel called "Stray Pearls."

*Matiñes Espagnoles* is the title of a weekly review, political and literary, which Madame Bonaparte, wife of Rattazi-Kulu has founded at Madrid.

M. Turgeneff has just published a weird story entitled "Après la Mort."

Mr. Anthony Trollope once wrote to a London publisher concerning the printing of conversations in novels: "You, I think, will understand that, having written so much, I have naturally given my mind to the subject, and have studied the way to reach, if possible, the attention and the sympathy of the reader. There can be no law fit to rule all cases. In general, when the speakers are supposed to stand in presence of an audience, the writer's object will be best carried out by letting each speech stand alone. But when the fragments of a conversation are given as having taken place at some past time, then the spoken words should be wrapped up in other matter. But this cannot be taken as a universal rule. The author, as he writes, feels the weight which he intends to give to each passage, and if he be experienced, how the effect may be produced which he desires. But such an instruction as that of which you speak as having come to you from certain editors is subservient of all effect. It is as though you were to order that in your house all liquors should be drunk out of cans of the same size—whether brandy or small beer. There can be no one but the author fit to arrange his own paragraphs. He may do it boldly—but if so, he is responsible. There is an abominable French habit of disjointing paragraphs for the sake of spreading matter and filling pages; but this is infinitely below such publications as you and I are connected with."

An old gentleman who knew Sir William Rowan Hamilton notes an instance of that distinguished mathematician's precocity as a child. "When about nine years old," he says, "I was taken by my father to the house of his old friend, 'Archy Hamilton,' William's father, in Dominie-st., Dublin, for an evening tea. The son, William, was brought in to show off the progress he had made, not only in languages, but in the facility with which he could read the characters, Greek and Hebrew especially, however placed before him. The Hebrew Psalter, placed upside-down, was read with as much ease as if it were in its right position before him."

Mr. Herman C. Merivale says that a few weeks before Charles Dickens's death he visited the novelist's house many days in succession for the rehearsals of a play in which the characters were taken by his two daughters, Mr. Hastings Hughes (brother of Mr. Thomas Hughes), and once the very school-boy who wrote to Dickens to tell him what ought to be done with some of the characters in "Nicholas Nickleby," and got back the delightful answer beginning "Respected Sir," Mr. F. C. Grove, and Merivale himself, Charles Dickens undertaken the entire stage management; and, though he was suffering from his lameness, directed all the rehearsals with a boy's spirit and a boy's interest in his favorite art—"coaching" as he worked his readings, and acting all the parts *en amie* contrived another, passing from the "old man" to the "young lover" with all his famous versatility and power. On the night of the performance, Merivale says, Dickens "was behind the scenes as prompter and stage-manager, ringing all the bells and working all the lights, and going through the whole thing with infectious energy. I was gloomy about my part, and do not forget asking him in the morning, as a last hope, as he seemed uncertain about its bearing himself, whether he thought it was comic or serious, and the twinkle in his eye when he answered, 'My dear boy, God alone knows. Play it whatever way you feel at night. And I remember his enjoyment at the dilemma of one of our company who lost his personal clothes behind the scenes and had to slip away as best he might, without joining the company in front, in the white regiments of an Austrian officer from the costumer's point of view."

The Putmans have just brought out a second edition of Mrs. M. C. Spenser's little story, "The Bone-fit of the Doubt."

Mr. Howells is said to be writing a novel of American life in Florence—a novel intended to form a companion picture to "A Foreign Conclusion."

Mr. Walter Besant's novel of "All Sorts and Conditions of Men" is reported to have made the squalid East End of London a place of fashionable resort. It has become the mode for worldlings in search of new sensations to make up parties of exploration in those strange regions.

Mr. William Allingham has issued one of his proposed new volumes of short poems in London. Most of the verses are personal, and many are tiny strays of rhyme like the following:

Four ducks on a pond,  
A gos-bank beyond;  
A blue sky of spring,  
With a lark on the wing;  
To remember for years—  
To remember with tears.

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